

Message Text

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TAGS: EGEN, UNGA

SUBJECT: 30TH UNGA - AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING:
FIRST SESSION

1. SUMMARY: FIRST SESSION OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING WAS OPENED BY SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM, WHO LINKED RESTRUCTURING PROCESS TO ATMOSPHERE AND RESULTS OF THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION. AMBASSADOR KENNETH DADZIE OF GHANA ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE. HIS OPENING STATEMENT WAS AN EXTREMELY THOUGHTFUL PRESENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK AND PROBLEMS OF THE RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE. THERE WAS A LIMITED DISCUSSION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK AND OF DOCUMENTATION TO BE CONSIDERED. COMMITTEE SESSION SCHEDULED TO RUN THROUGH NOVEMBER 19. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FIRST SESSION OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UN SYSTEM WAS HELD NOVEMBER 13. IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT, SYG WALDHEIM DESCRIBED THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION AS A UNCLASSIFIED

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TURNING POINT IN THE HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOP-

ERATION AND THE FINAL RESOLUTION AS "THE BASIS AND FRAMEWORK FOR THE FUTURE WORK OF ALL THE COMPETENT BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UN SYSTEM." HE NOTED THE CONSENSUS REACHED AT THAT SESSION ON THE NECESSITY OF RESTRUCTURING THE UN SYSTEM AND CONTINUED: "THE IMPORTANCE AND URGENCY OF REFORMING THE PRESENT UN SYSTEM IS INEXTRICABLY LINKED TO THE GREATER INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN STATES AND THE GROWING RECOGNITION THAT THE PROBLEMS WHICH PREVAIL IN THE WORLD ARE CLOSELY INTERRELATED. THE APPLICATION OF AN INTEGRATED MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH, CONCEPTUALLY AND INSTITUTIONALLY, TO DEAL WITH THESE PROBLEMS CONSEQUENTLY REQUIRES THE ADAPTATION OF THE EXISTING STRUCTURAL FRAMEWORK OF THE UN SYSTEM. THIS PROCESS MUST BE UNDERTAKEN IN CONTEXT OF PROGRESS TOWARDS A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER." WALDHEIM NOTED THE COMPLEXITY OF THE COMMITTEE'S TASK BUT, REFERRING AGAIN TO THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION, SAID THAT THE RESULTS OBTAINED THERE "CONSTITUTE INDISPUTABLE EVIDENCE THAT, IF THE NECESSARY DEGREE OF POLITICAL DETERMINATION PREVAILS, APPROPRIATE PROCESSES OF DELIBERATION AND NEGOTIATION CAN BE EVOLVED TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS AND CONCRETE SOLUTIONS." IN CLOSING, THE SECRETARY GENERAL PLEDGED THE SUPPORT OF UN BODIES IN THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE.

3. UPON THE NOMINATION OF MADAGASCAR (ON BEHALF OF G-77) SUPPORTED BY AUSTRALIA (ON BEHALF OF WEO'S) AND POLAND (ON BEHALF OF SOVIET BLOC), AMBASSADOR KENNETH K. S. DADZIE OF GHANA WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE BY ACCLAMATION.

4. IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT, CHAIRMAN DADZIE ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH THE SYG'S EVALUATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THE RESULTS OF THE SESSION ("COMPRISING A SET OF ALBEIT INCOMPLETE AGREED PRINCIPLES AND POLICY MEASURES, TOGETHER WITH GUIDELINES AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE") REPRESENTED A FIRST STEP TOWARDS REMOVING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DISPARITIES BETWEEN NATIONS AND TOWARDS "ASSURING FULLER PARTICIPATION FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE RELATED DECISION-MAKING PROCESS." HE DESCRIBED THE UNDERLYING PURPOSE OF THE RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE AS PROMOTING GREATER UNITY OF PURPOSE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMON ACTION WITHIN THE SYSTEM. HE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THE CONCEPT OF FUNCTIONAL DECENTRALIZATION WAS GENERALLY AC-

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CEPTED, THERE IS INCREASING FRUSTRATION AT THE GROWING COMPLEXITY OF THE UN SYSTEM. "AS THE CONCEPT OF A COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT GAINED GENERAL ACCEPTANCE, SO IRONICALLY HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR RELATED PROBLEM AREAS BECOME MORE DIFFUSED AMONG AN INCREASINGLY LARGE NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS." DADZIE REFERRED TO PREVIOUS REORGANIZATIONS EFFORTS AND NOTED THAT THE PRESENT EXERCISE IS "BROADER IN SCOPE AND INFORMED BY A QUALITATIVELY DIFFERENT CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK,"

I.E. COVERING THE WHOLE RANGE OF UN ACTIVITIES AND IN THE CONTEXT OF PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. HE SAID THAT THE RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CERTAIN FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: UNIVERSALITY, INTERDEPENDENCE OF STATES, INTERRELATION OF GLOBAL PROBLEMS AND THE CONSEQUENT NECESSITY FOR AN INTEGRATED APPROACH OF A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY CHARACTER. HE EMPHASIZED THE COMPLEXITY OF THE COMMITTEE'S TASK: CONSIDERING AND SYNTHESIZING PROPOSALS, BALANCING CONSIDERATIONS OF STRUCTURAL CHANGE AND SUBSTANTIVE POLICY CONSENSUS, COMPATIBILITY BETWEEN STRUCTURAL REFORM AND CHARTER PROVISIONS, BALANCE BETWEEN DECENTRALIZATION AND DIRECTION FROM THE CENTER, ETC. AMBASSADOR DADZIE CONCLUDED: "INSTITUTIONS ARE NOT ENDS IN THEMSELVES; THEY ARE NO MORE, BUT NO LESS, THAN MEANS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF HUMAN LIFE. THE DECISIVE TEST OF ALL OUR EFFORTS WILL BE THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UN SYSTEM IS ENHANCED TO PROMOTE THE GOALS OF "SOCIAL PROGRESS AND BETTER STANDARDS OF LIFE IN LARGER FREEDOM."

5. THE COMMITTEE DEFERRED ELECTION OF THE OTHER OFFICERS AND APPROVED THE AGENDA WITHOUT DISCUSSION. FOLLOWING SUGGESTION BY THE CHAIRMAN, THE COMMITTEE WILL HAVE A PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF GENERAL VIEWS AT ITS NEXT SESSION (FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, A.M.) AND TAKE UNDER CONSIDERATION BOTH THE FUTURE WORK OF THIS SESSION AS WELL AS THE FUTURE PROGRAM OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE. THERE WAS A BRIEF DISCUSSION ON DOCUMENTATION FOR THE COMMITTEE SPARKED BY A PHILIPPINE SUGGESTION THAT THE JACKSON REPORT BE INCLUDED. IT WAS DECIDED TO RETURN TO THE QUESTION OF DOCUMENTATION AT A FUTURE DATE. HOWEVER, IT WAS MADE CLEAR IN THE INTERVENTION OF UPPER VOLTA AND ARGENTINA (PRESUMABLY SPEAKING FOR A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE G-77) THAT THEY DID NOT WISH AN OPEN-ENDED CONSIDERATION OF RESTRUCTURING BUT WANTED A CONCRETE WORK PROGRAM INCLUDING SPECIFIC DOCUMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED.

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6. COMMITTEE SCHEDULED TO MEET THROUGH WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19.
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